

Tuesday 16 July 2013 from 6.30pm

Present: W Bates, M Bell, J Blackburn, J Blakey, G Kitson, D Paget, S Raine, A Richardson, F Salisbury, M Syer, S Thompson

In Attendance: M Ridley, S Longstaff, Cllr M Plews

1. Apologies for absence: D Chambers, J Chambers, PC Cockburn, R Cowen, J Geyer, K Griffiths, K Haigh, S Walworth

2i. Police: There was no report this month.

It was asked if the police could attend a meeting in the near future.

(J. Blackburn)

2ii. PACT meetings: The next meeting in Bowburn Community Centre at 6pm is on 14 August.

2iii. Neighbourhood Wardens: Contact Neighbourhood Wardens on 03000 261 018; Option 3.

The Council continue to crack down on enviro-crimes and anti-social behaviour in County Durham. During May 77 fixed penalty notices were issued – 24 of which were for dog fouling, 39 for littering and 14 for failure to comply with a litter clearing notice for an untidy yard or garden. A successful prosecution was also brought against a man found guilty of fly-tipping in the East Durham area. 72 reports of anti-social behaviour were covered, and there were 78 seizures of alcohol from underage drinkers.

Police, Community Support Officers and neighbourhood wardens, can issue fixed penalty notices for enviro-crimes and anti-social behaviour.

Report incidents of enviro-crime and anti-social behaviour by contacting the Council on 03000 261 000.

3. Flooding in Bowburn: Simon Longstaff, Drainage and Coastal Protection Manager, DCC reported that: An initial survey identified ditching works that are needed and found the bed on the culvert running past the Community Centre to be covered with gravel. Although this is not a major issue for the movement of water, the bed of the culvert needs to be as clean as possible so that a camera tractor can carry out a survey. Some of the ditching works near the allotments have already been carried out; the remaining section of ditching from the footbridge at Charlesworth Close to the culvert inlet will be done at the time of the survey works. NWL surface water sewers discharge into the culvert and DCC are interested in checking these; there are also some cleansing works to be carried out downstream of the culvert outlet.

Members made the following points:

- >Either make the culvert bigger or reduce the amount of water coming into the culvert as there is too much combined water (surface and sewage) having to flow into the beck through drains with limited capacity. This might be achieved by taking more surface water directly to the beck west of Durham Road, by increasing attenuation measures higher up the system (for instance in new housing estates) or by a complete overhaul of the system.
- >More thought needs to be given to the regular clearing of the culvert, to speed up the escape of surface water, even if the culvert cannot be increased in size.
- >The flood problem at the Old Quarrington Road junction proved that the situation would have been worse near the Community Centre if water had not been held back at that junction.
- >More consideration needs to be given to flooding issues in planning applications eg 'The Daisy Field' which was agreed by NWL; at least one local house insurance company now mentioned that housing, even several feet about actual flood levels, was in a "flood area". It was believed, however, this had not yet affected insurance premiums.

The chair had earlier put the following query "Where does the County believe legal responsibility lies with flooding issues? Now that they are the Lead Flood Authority - if there is a flooding problem resulting from, say, a planning decision and negligence can be established - would it be appropriate to sue the Council even if they relied on advice from say, NWL?"

Simon has left the question with the legal team and will get back to the Partnership when he has a response. **(Janet)** Simon thanked members for their suggestions and would keep them updated. He added that DCC have high standards of checking for flood areas on plans.

Simon was thanked for his attendance at the meeting and left at 7.00pm

4. Minutes: >When the time of the meeting was changed to 6.30pm the minutes of 18 June were approved as a true record and agreed by members.

Matters arising:

Item 2: The missing 'dog' bin has been reported.

Item 6B(ii): M Ridley has spoken to BVC members about moving the War Memorial and Miner's tub. However he did say at this meeting that the memorials looked very good now that they had been weeded.

Item 6B(v): Simon Longstaff attended this meeting.

Item 7 Correspondence: There had been no update from the CVS.

Item 10 Traffic calming sensors will be installed on Tail upon End Lane.

5. Finances:

> Income Tea/raffle - £10.00, net of £1 costs; £20, £10, £5 quiz prize monies; £34 room hire for May and June.

> Raffle prize: The prize was won by F Salisbury and donated by S Raine.

> Quiz: The new quiz at £1 for prizes of £20, £10, and £5 is "Green Matters". Please support your Partnership.

6. Item for Any Other Business: (i) Lamp posts (ii) Norton Avenue

7. Current Masterplan:

7A. Regeneration Fund: Project updates:

001 Parkhill play equipment: A Richardson advised that the third and final quotation for play equipment is needed before the application can be made.

002 Youth Club: *Some of the works are complete and ready to be put into use.*

003 Railings along the C12a: *The project was not taken forward.*

004 Community Chest: The project is on hold depending on the funds remaining.

005 Drain an area of footpath on the far side of the pit heaps.

The Parish Council is applying for the funding from the Regeneration Fund and quotations are being sought. There is a survey as to the use of Bridleways 36 and 37 going out to walkers, horse riders and cyclists.

006 Improve access to the bus stop at Romaine Square: No update as Julie Anson is on holiday.

7B. Reports

i) Highways: There has been no meeting.

ii) Parkhill: See Item 7A above.

The AGM has been deferred to September in Bowburn Community Centre at 6.30pm.

There is no meeting in August.

iii) Community Centre: Some minor works are still to finish, otherwise the refurbishment of the centre is complete. The next board meeting is on 24 July at 6.20pm when group representatives should attend.

iv) Youth Centre:

Some of the planned work has been completed and the community gym is being prepared for opening.

v) Environment: See Item 3 'Flooding in Bowburn'.

vi) Park Project: It was agreed to remove this item from future minutes but review at a later date.

Councillor Jan Blakey declared an interest in the following two items.

vii) Planning: Land to South of Oakfield Crescent, case officer Henry Jones.

Cllrs Blakey and Williams spoke against the plans and the application was refused.

viii) Housing: Concern was expressed that the land may be prepared for housing on Durham Green as a gas main to the south of Oxford Terrace appeared to be being laid to this area.

C. Future Masterplan/County Durham Plan/Big Society: No further information.

8. Correspondence:

> Disability North is holding the North's largest Independent Living Exhibition DNEX at Newcastle Racecourse on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 September - open from 10.00am.

DNEX is a free event with free on-site car parking, and a free accessible shuttle bus from the local Metro stations Four Lane Ends and Regent Centre to the main entrance of the Exhibition.

> The Disability North Gala Dinner takes place at Newcastle Racecourse on the 25 September.

This special evening offers you the chance to show your support - tickets are £30 per person.

> Limestone Landscapes: Events and information in our area are available on www.limestonelandscapes.info

9. Reports and matters arising:

9i AAP – Key Messages

● The following appointments were made Chair 2013/14 - R Swales (statutory partners), Vice Chair - J Blakey (Councillors), and Vice Chair J Hepplewhite (Public representatives)

● New Board members were welcomed and former Board members were thanked for their contribution.

● R Swales (living) Head of Business Strategy & Inclusion talked on the Welfare Reform Escalation Plan.

● The November Forum will provide an opportunity for the community to engage in consultations on the *Council's Budget*, the *County Plan* and also help influence the future *AAP priorities* for 2014/15.

To assist the AAP to resource the event, the Council will make an additional £5,000 contribution increasing each Area Budget for 2013/14 to £125,000. The *Forum/Participatory Budget (PB)* event is on Saturday 23 November at Sedgefield Community College.

- Young Enterprise had requested funding for a second year. Board members approved the proposed project in principle as Alison Wilkinson from Young Enterprise was not in attendance.
 - Board members were asked if they wished to continue funding the Apprenticeship Scheme which would be discussed in more detail at the Employment and Job Prospects Task and Finish Group.
- The Active Life Centre is seeking to recruit up to five apprentices, contingent upon funding being awarded.
- The next Board meeting is on Wednesday 17 July from 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm at Sedgefield Methodist Hall.

The **It's Up 2 U** scheme is a Participatory Budget that allows people to decide the allocation of a specific portion of public money. Community groups/organisations must deliver projects that address the priorities of:

- ❖ Activities for Children and Young People
- ❖ Community Aspirations, including projects to support those affected by the Welfare Reforms

The application should demonstrate how the project meets one or more of the above priorities. All successful applicants will need to complete a 'What Difference Will Your Project Make?' Form to provide more information on the outcomes, key milestones and activities of the project so that we can monitor their performance.

- Applicants can apply for amounts up to £4,000.
- *Closing time/date is by 12 noon on Friday 6 September 2013.*

If successful at the application stage, you will be invited to attend the community event on Saturday 23 November 2013 so local residents can hear about your project and vote for their favourite projects.

The next AAP Board meeting is on Wednesday 17 July at Sedgefield Methodist Community Centre 5 – 7pm. Please make every effort to attend to find out how the Participatory Budgeting Scheme is to be developed. Please register with Marie Ainscough on 03000 261128 or via email at marie.ainscough@durham.gov.uk

ii) Parish Council: Certificates were presented to retiring Councillors Jack Barker, and Billy Tickell. Stan Robinson's was to be delivered to his home. They were thanked for their many years of service to the Parish. Funding for the Turdale play area had been gratefully received from the Neighbourhood Funding Budgets of Cllrs Blakey & Williams. A site visit had been arranged for 26 June for contractors wishing to quote for the drainage/improvement project on Bridleways 36 & 37. Neighbourhood Warden report received 16 July: 1 fixed penalty notice (FPN) issued for dog fouling in Bowburn Park on 3/6/13; 1 FPN for littering in Ellen Street car park, on 8/6/13

The next meeting is on 17 July at Bowburn and 21 August at Cassop Communal Hall.

Litter picks Saturday 3 August, 8 September – meet in Bowburn Community Centre Car Park at 9.30am.

iii) Quarry Liaison: There has been no meeting. Orchids have been gifted to the Botanic Gardens.

9. Group Noticeboard:

>Banner: Two fantastic bands, Spennymoor and BandaKadabra played at the Eve of Gala concert. The Kippax band was well received on the day of the Gala.

A member at this meeting thanked the Banner group for organising an incredible weekend of entertainment and historical interest for the village.

>G Hutchinson has moved from Bowburn and updates to the Radio, Durham Times and website are on hold.

>BVC: The Quiz Night was enjoyed by all. Look out for further quiz nights in October and December. The AGM will be held on 6 August in DJ Evans Youth Club at 11 am.

>Credit Union Bank: The collection point is open for banking and information on Fridays from 11am to 12 noon in Bowburn Community Centre, when new members can also join.

>Football: No update.

>Fun Day: There is a meeting on Thursday 18 July at 6.30pm in the Youth Club.

>History: There would be no meeting this week, but the public are invited to an interesting talk on the "Civil Wars in Durham" in the Community Centre on Thursday 18 July starting at 7pm. Please contact www.bowburnhistory.co.uk

10. Any Other Business:

i) Lamp posts: It was asked who made the order for two lamp posts to be erected on the land opposite the 'daisy field', instead of following the C12a footpath? **(Janet, Cllr Blakey)**

ii) Norton Avenue: It was asked why there was no feed-back on the problem in Norton Avenue? **(Janet, Cllr Blakey)**

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

20 August 2013 at 6.30pm in Bowburn Community Centre